



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Park and Recreation Administrative Office Building, located at 5841 Brookshire Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28216 at 6 p.m. on August 14, 2018

## **PRC MINUTES**

### **August 14, 2018**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

**PRC Present:** Heidi Pruess, Chair  
Peter Engels, Executive Secretary  
Sterling Martin  
Brian Cox  
Blanche Penn  
Doug Burnett  
Tristan McMannis  
Mary Foxx Johnson  
Rufus Kearney  
Paul Freestone  
John Leonard

**PRC Absent** Vacancy – North 1  
John Leonard  
Rick Winiker

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Chair, Heidi Pruess, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

#### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Chair, Heidi Pruess, welcomed all to the August 14, 2018 Park and Recreation Commission meeting. Each Commissioner introduced themselves and the region they represent. Special recognition was made for the new Park and Recreation Commissioners: Rufus Kearney, South

**PEOPLE • PRIDE • PROGRESS • PARTNERSHIPS**

5841 Brookshire Boulevard • Charlotte, North Carolina 28216-2403 • (980) 314-1000 • Fax (704) 394-8861

[www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com)

*All services are available without regard to origin, sex, or disability*

3 and Paul Freestone, Northern Towns. Staff and guest were also introduced including former City Council member and Democratic candidate for District 99 of the NC House of Representative, Nasif Majeeb, and candidate for BOCC District 5, Susan B. Harden.

### **Public Appearance - None**

### **Awards and Recognition:**

**Peter Cook – Deputy Director:** Director Lee Jones, introduced new Deputy Director, Peter Cook. Peter has been with the Department for over 20 years and has previously held the positions of Maintenance and Operations Superintendent and Division Director of Park Operations. Peter holds a BS in Recreation Administration, a Master's in Public Administration, is a certified playground inspector and a licensed general contractor.

**NACo Awards** – Director Lee Jones shared the 2018 NACo Achievement Awards received by the Department:

1. Adaptive CrossFit and Yoga – Best in Category
  - a. Submitted by Stacey L. Thomas – Therapeutic Recreation Specialist
2. BAARN: Bring Accessible Agriculture Recreationally Now
  - a. Submitted by Stephanie Frisbee, Facility Manager
3. Bike Riders
  - a. Submitted by Ariel Kliem, Therapeutic Recreation Specialist
4. Connecting Communities to Nature (CC2N)
  - a. Submitted by Alice Chambers, Environmental Education Manager
5. Learn to Ride Biking Initiative
  - a. Submitted by Gabe Hackney, Facility Manager
6. Open Streets 704
  - a. Submitted by Alfred Bangoura, Recreation Superintendent

Details for the above awards can be viewed here: [2018 NACo Awards](#)

### **PRC Chair Report**

**Meeting Notes of July 10 Special PRC Meeting and PRC and AC Agenda Format:** Chair Pruess recapped the special PRC meeting held on July 10, 2018 at Mahlon Adams Pavilion to discuss changes to make the Citizen Advisory Councils as effective and efficient as possible. Meeting notes were produced from this meeting which includes new AC and PRC agenda formats along with the decision to sunset the PRC Fees and Charges Committee as well as the Strategic Planning and Long-Range Financing Committee. Chair Pruess will attend the Department's SuperTeam meeting on August 28 at 10 a.m. to update management on the approved changes and to answer questions.

(NOTE: The meeting notes from the July 10, 2018 PRC special meeting can be viewed here: [PRC Notes of July 10, 2018 PRC Special Meeting](#) and the new agenda format for the PRC and AC meetings can be viewed here: [Revised PRC and AC Agenda – August 2018](#) )

### **PEOPLE • PRIDE • PROGRESS • PARTNERSHIPS**

5841 Brookshire Boulevard • Charlotte, North Carolina 28216-2403 • (980) 314-1000 • Fax (704) 394-8861

[www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com)

*All services are available without regard to origin, sex, or disability*

**The Following Motion was made** by Commissioner Engels:

We, the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Commission (PRC), held a special meeting on July 10, 2018 and as a result move the following:

- Adoption of the meeting notes into the PRC record of meetings;
- Adoption of the new PRC and Advisory Council agenda format to take effect immediately;
- To temporarily defer appointment of new Advisory Council (AC) members until the September PRC Meeting. Current AC members with terms expiring in the months of June, July and August of 2018 may have their terms extended as recommended by the AC Chair; and
- To sunset the PRC Fees and Charges Sub-committee and the Strategic Planning and Long-Range Finance Sub-Committee

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin and approved unanimously.

**PRC Priorities:**

**Active Community Engagement –Commissioner Penn’s Recreation Center Report:**

Commissioner Penn, over the past several months, has visited many of the Department’s recreation centers and rated each center on customer service and programming.

Commissioner Penn shared a presentation recapping her results which can be viewed here: [Recreation Center Report – Commissioner Blanche Penn](#)

Commissioner Penn, passionate about programming and engaging youth, made these visits and personally rated them based on her background as a volunteer for 10 years, a part-time employee for 10 years and a full-time employee for 25 years with the Department, including positions held as both a Recreation Specialist and a Facility Manager. It was noted that we do not have a Citizen Advisory Council focused on programming.

Terri Stowers, Division Director of Community and Recreation Center Services, thanked Commissioner Penn and shared that because of her efforts Customer Service training was held on May 15, 19 and 23 for Limited PT staff, which included a Department Orientation, Accounting Policies, Customer Service and Safety, and Inclusion. Al Bangoura, Recreation Superintendent, prepared a memo to address Commissioner Penn’s questions and concerns:

- Customer Service Training
- Gym Upgrades, Current and Future
- Certified Interpretive Guide
- Learn to Ride Certification
- Open Gym Opportunities

This memo with details on the above topics can be viewed here: [Recreation Center Report Response](#)

**PEOPLE • PRIDE • PROGRESS • PARTNERSHIPS**

5841 Brookshire Boulevard • Charlotte, North Carolina 28216-2403 • (980) 314-1000 • Fax (704) 394-8861  
[www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com)

*All services are available without regard to origin, sex, or disability*

## **Director's Report**

**Senior Programming Voucher – Pilot Program:** Lorraine Bias, Sr. Fiscal Administrator, introduced a Pilot Program to provide seniors with vouchers to be used towards the cost of senior programs. The memo regarding this Pilot Program can be viewed here: [Senior Voucher Pilot Program](#) Details include:

- Available to all Mecklenburg County residents, age 60 and up.
- Voucher will consist of five \$5 coupons for a total value of \$25. Vouchers can only be used for programs, events and trips managed by the Department and only one \$5 coupon per event/program/trip. Motor Coach trips and 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor activities are excluded from this program.
- Participants must complete the Senior Services Survey to qualify for a voucher. This survey will be available in all recreation and senior centers beginning September 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.
- Voucher expires June 30, 2019
- July and August will be a time for program evaluation

A flyer will be designed to advertise this event and will be available at all recreation facilities. Staff will be advised to share this pilot program with their seniors and be available to assist with completing the survey. The survey will be hard copy and is a survey that is required by the state to maintain state funding of the Sr. Centers. In addition, questions regarding senior programs have been added to the survey.

Lorraine will return in January to give the PRC an update on the program.

**Park and Recreation Master Plan:** Director Jones shared that the current Master Plan was initiated, endorsed and approved in 2008 and was updated in 2014. Based on the population growth, changing demographics and amenities, the current Master Plan is reaching the end of its useful life and the time has come to begin looking at developing a new Master Plan. To begin, Director Jones asked Liz Morrell, Management Analyst, to provide the PRC with a brief overview of the current Park and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan.

Liz Morrell gave a presentation which included the following:

- What is a Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan
- Components of a Master Plan
- 2008 Master Plan Highlights
- 2014 Master Plan Updates
- Current Master Plan Status

**NOTE:** This presentation can be viewed here: [Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master](#)

## **PEOPLE • PRIDE • PROGRESS • PARTNERSHIPS**

5841 Brookshire Boulevard • Charlotte, North Carolina 28216-2403 • (980) 314-1000 • Fax (704) 394-8861

[www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com)

*All services are available without regard to origin, sex, or disability*

## Plan

Discussion resulted in the following:

- PRC suggested adding the Towns and City to the survey mix for the next Master Plan.
- Director Jones shared that:
  - He and Assistant County Manager, Leslie Johnson, have met and will continue to meet with the City Planning Director, Taiwo Jiyeoba, and the Assistant City Manager, Deborah Campbell to make sure we parallel our planning guidelines and ensure that we are all on the same path;
  - He will be scheduling a meeting with all the Town P&R Directors to understand what is going on in their towns and what they are looking for
  - Liz Morrell will assist with using valid statistics and working with UNCC and TPL
  - A new consultant that has experience with a jurisdiction like Mecklenburg County will be selected to guide us through a new Master Plan process
- A new Master Plan may need updating more frequently based on the rate at which the County is growing. This process will be guided by the Consultant.
- Important for the Department to have a way to measure our success in achieving the goals in a new Master Plan. Include in RFQ performance measures much like we have for our Strategic Plan.
- The difference between a Master Plan and the Strategic Plan: A Master Plan is a very high-level comprehensive plan, is citizen driven, with many goals and objectives and is typically a 10-year plan with updates. The Strategic Plan is a 3-year Departmental plan with a direct link to the budget, is limited to 5 goals, includes performance measures for success and is consistent across all Departments in the County. They are similar in that they both help guide the Department and allocate our resources including staff time as well as money.
- Going forward, the Finance Department will add in escalation cost for projects.

### **Regional Recreation Centers Update:**

**Eastway Regional Recreation Center:** This project is heavily into construction documents and currently looking at finishes. Neighboring concepts submitted a rendering of the Eastway Regional Recreation Center to Pride Magazine, which was published in a recent edition.

**Northern Regional Recreation Center:** A project team meeting was held today with important contributions from the Community and Recreation Center Services Director, Terri Stowers, on programming and operations. Adjacent property has been purchased which will improve layout options. With input from all three of the Northern Towns, key points were raised in terms of circulation in services and the building footprint.

**Abersham Naming:** Chris Matthews, Division Director of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources, gave an update on the request from Cathy Denham, resident of Davidson and school teacher in Iredell County, to rename Abersham Regional Park to Monarch Butterfly Park. Ms. Denham based this request on the existence of milkweed in the park. It was determined

## **PEOPLE • PRIDE • PROGRESS • PARTNERSHIPS**

5841 Brookshire Boulevard • Charlotte, North Carolina 28216-2403 • (980) 314-1000 • Fax (704) 394-8861

[www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com)

*All services are available without regard to origin, sex, or disability*

that this property does not have a high concentration of milkweed to attract a significant number of monarch butterflies, and after meeting with Ms. Denham on the park property and bringing the request before the North Regional Advisory Council, this renaming request has been denied and the Department will move forward with signage and naming the park Abersham. The Department offered to name a portion of the park, Monarch Meadows, which would be managed for habitat for monarch butterflies and would include educational signage to explain the connection between the Monarch and Milkweed. Ms. Denham was happy with this; however, she is still opposed to the name of Abersham.

Commissioner Martin shared that he recently learned that Abersham is a Welsh word meaning a confluence of water.

**Marine Week:** Marine Week will bring approximately 700 Marines to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area from September 5 through September 9. This celebration of Community, Country and Corps will feature hands-on displays, live demonstrations, time-honored Marine Corps traditions, musical performances and other events to showcase the history, military capabilities and community involvement of the Corps. The Marines will be using First Ward Park for the Opening Ceremony, Physical Fitness with the Marines, and Static Display. They will be using Marshal Park for the Vietnam Traveling Wall. For details on these and many other activities during this week, please visit the website: <https://usmarineweek.com/>

**Freedom Park Play 60 Update:** The Carolina Panthers and Lowes will be refurbishing the Freedom Park Play60 area between August 16 and September 7. The Carolina Panthers and Lowes will be funding this upgrade in the amount of approximately \$175,000. A rededication will be held in early September.

**Camp Green Basketball Court Renovations:** The Charlotte Hornets/Lowes will be renovating seven courts at Camp Greene between September 3 and October 9. Included in this \$150,000 renovation will be new bleachers, trash cans and a water fountain. This is the third Charlotte Hornets/Lowes court renovation. A dedication event is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 3 at Camp Green Park (subject to change).

**Second Ward High School Gym Dedication:** The dedication of the Second Ward High School Gymnasium will be held Friday, August 31, 2018 at 10 a.m. at 710 East Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. The Second Ward High School Gymnasium is one of the last remaining structures of Charlotte's first public high school for African American students, which opened in 1923 within the Brooklyn neighborhood. The gym originally opened in 1949.

**Independence Park Renovation/Elizabeth Neighborhood Association:** Because the Elizabeth Neighborhood Association has been very vocal and involved with this project, they have been invited to attend the kick-off meeting to confirm the scope of the RFQ for the Independence Park renovations. This meeting will take place at the Grady Cole Center on August 15, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

**PEOPLE • PRIDE • PROGRESS • PARTNERSHIPS**

5841 Brookshire Boulevard • Charlotte, North Carolina 28216-2403 • (980) 314-1000 • Fax (704) 394-8861

[www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com)

*All services are available without regard to origin, sex, or disability*

Chair Pruess encouraged all members of the PRC to attend as many of the events listed on the PRC agenda and on the website.

### **Advisory Council Appointments**

The following reappointments were made:

#### **a. Athletics**

1. David Hale – 1<sup>st</sup> Term
2. Thomas Lee – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term
3. Travis Williams – 1<sup>st</sup> Term
4. Jennifer Miller – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term
5. Brett Rumble – 1<sup>st</sup> Term
6. Julia Martin – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Martin to reappoint Athletic AC members to another term as indicated above, all expiring 6/2021, which was seconded by Commissioner Burnett and approved unanimously.

#### **b. Central**

1. Darryl Gaston – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Engels to reappoint Darryl Gaston to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Term, expiring 6/2021, which was seconded by Commissioner Martin and approved unanimously.

#### **c. Cooperative Extension**

1. June Hood 2<sup>nd</sup> Term
2. Diane Podolsky – 1<sup>st</sup> Term
3. Marilyn Gore – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term
4. Joyce Trott – Special Reappointment to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Term or Vacancy
5. Karla Robinson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term
6. Robert Robinson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term
7. Robin Emmons – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Pruess to reappoint Cooperative Extension AC members to another term as indicated above, all expiring 6/2021, which was seconded by Commissioner Burnett and approved unanimously.

#### **d. Greenway**

1. Mark Loflin – Special Reappointment to a 4<sup>th</sup> Term or Vacancy
2. Gordon Clark – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term
3. Jennifer Cline – 1<sup>st</sup> Term - Not Reappointed - **VACANCY**

### **PEOPLE • PRIDE • PROGRESS • PARTNERSHIPS**

5841 Brookshire Boulevard • Charlotte, North Carolina 28216-2403 • (980) 314-1000 • Fax (704) 394-8861

[www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com)

*All services are available without regard to origin, sex, or disability*

4. Richard Winters – Special Reappointment to a 4<sup>th</sup> Term or Vacancy
5. Tom Watson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term
6. Charlie McRee – 1<sup>st</sup> Term – Not Reappointed - **VACANCY**
7. Ed Barnhart – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Burnett to reappoint Greenway AC members to another term as indicated above, (except for Jennifer Cline and Charlie McRee) all expiring 6/2021, which was seconded by Commissioner Engels and approved unanimously.

**e. North**

1. One (1) Vacancy – No Applications
2. Cathy Young – Special Reappointment to a 4<sup>th</sup> Term or Vacancy
3. Doug Welsh – 1<sup>st</sup> Term
4. Adam Pasiak – 1<sup>st</sup> Term
5. Iris Bonano – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term
6. Patricia Poteat – 1<sup>st</sup> Term
7. Kendel Phillips – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

Reappointments for the North AC were deferred to the September PRC meeting.

**f. South**

1. Daniel Cook – Special Reappointment to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Term or Vacancy
2. Rodger Nolden – Not Reappointed - **VACANCY**
3. Erin Lapham – 1<sup>st</sup> Term
4. Brian McCulloch – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Burnett to reappoint South AC members to another term as indicated above, (except for Rodger Nolden) all expiring 6/2021, which was seconded by Commissioner Martin and approved unanimously.

**g. Sr. Citizens**

1. Rosalind Taylor – Special Reappointment to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Term or Vacancy
2. Pearl M. Stitt - Special Reappointment to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Term or Vacancy
3. Bill Marchant - Special Reappointment to a 4<sup>th</sup> Term or Vacancy
4. Fran Mathay – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term
5. Peggy McDonald – Special Reappointment to a 4<sup>th</sup> Term or Vacancy
6. Chuck Bennett – Special Reappointment to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Term or Vacancy

**Motion was made** by Commissioner McMannis to reappoint Sr. Citizen AC members to another term as indicated above, all expiring 6/2021, which was seconded by Commissioner Engels and approved unanimously.

**h. Stewardship**

1. Joshua Prescott – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term
2. Sharon Wilson – Special Reappointment to a 4<sup>th</sup> Term or Vacancy
3. Kelly Thames – 2<sup>nd</sup>

**PEOPLE • PRIDE • PROGRESS • PARTNERSHIPS**

5841 Brookshire Boulevard • Charlotte, North Carolina 28216-2403 • (980) 314-1000 • Fax (704) 394-8861

[www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com)

*All services are available without regard to origin, sex, or disability*



**Motion was made** by Commissioner Pruess to reappoint Stewardship AC members to another term as indicated above, all expiring 6/2021, which was seconded by Commissioner Burnett and approved unanimously.

## **Consent**

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Cox to approve all consent items, including the PRC minutes of June 12, 2018, which was seconded by Commissioner Martin and approved unanimously.

## **PRC Reports and Requests**

Chair Pruess asked everyone to begin thinking about transitioning to the new Advisory Council agenda format. The PRC meetings will begin spending a little more time on hearing reports from the Chair of the various Advisory Councils on what is happening on the Advisory Councils. The minutes of the Advisory Council meetings should include any handouts used at the meetings.

Commissioner Mary Johnson: The July 16, 2018 Central AC meeting was canceled due to the staff liaison currently out on leave.

Commissioner Blanche Penn: The North AC had a guest attend from Tuckaseegee to talk about programming. Important that AC members show up for meetings.

Commissioner Tristan McMannis: The Sr. Citizens AC is excited about the new AC agenda format and the opportunity to change the focus and be more engaged.

Commissioner Peter Engels: Peter pointed out the form, included in their handouts, for making advisory council reports at the next PRC meeting. Peter also reported that the Central Advisory Council responded well to the AC agenda format change and are already thinking through some new ideas on what land acquisition in the Central Region could look like. The Central AC will be attending the September 11, 2018 PRC meeting and are looking forward to an update on American Legion Memorial Stadium.

**(Note:** All PRC were encouraged to complete the AC report form and turn it in electronically prior to the PRC meetings so that all could review in advance)

Commissioner Doug Burnett: Commissioner Burnett reported that the Greenway AC members are engaged and passionate. A main focus for this group is more money for greenways.

Commissioner Paul Freestone: Commissioner Freestone was able to attend the August 6 North Advisory Council meeting.

## **PEOPLE • PRIDE • PROGRESS • PARTNERSHIPS**

5841 Brookshire Boulevard • Charlotte, North Carolina 28216-2403 • (980) 314-1000 • Fax (704) 394-8861

[www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com)

*All services are available without regard to origin, sex, or disability*

Commissioner Brian Cox: The Master Plan presentation is a great opportunity for the advisory councils to be engaged on a meaningful topic.

Commissioner Sterling Martin: The Athletics Advisory Council has met and discussed the new advisory council agenda format. This group feels strongly about maintaining their current structure and membership. They also feel that it is important to be able to hear about other activities besides their own.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**PEOPLE • PRIDE • PROGRESS • PARTNERSHIPS**

5841 Brookshire Boulevard • Charlotte, North Carolina 28216-2403 • (980) 314-1000 • Fax (704) 394-8861

[www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com)

*All services are available without regard to origin, sex, or disability*